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Security Council

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Letter dated 11 December 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to my letter of 24 November 2003 and upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request that the letter from Mr. Jalal Talabani, interim President of the Iraqi Governing Council, to the President of the Security Council regarding the timetable agreed upon with the Coalition Provisional Authority in accordance with paragraph 7 of Security Council resolution 1511 (2003) be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Said S. **Ahmad**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 11 December 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

24 November 2003

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from Mr. Jalal Talabani, interim President of the Iraqi Governing Council, regarding the timetable agreed upon with the Coalition Provisional Authority in accordance with paragraph 7 of Security Council resolution 1511 (2003).

(*Signed*) Said S. **Ahmad**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Enclosure

[Original: Arabic]
[23 November 2003]

I have the honour to inform you and the members of the Security Council that the Iraqi Governing Council, having been invited by the Security Council, in paragraph 7 of resolution 1511 (2003), to establish a timetable and programme for the drafting of a new constitution for Iraq and for the holding of democratic elections under that constitution, has decided to hold general elections for the establishment of a constitutional convention no later than 15 March 2005. The constitution that will be prepared by the said convention will be submitted to the Iraqi people for approval in a referendum. By the end of 2005, elections will be held to elect a new government in accordance with the provisions of the constitution. The Governing Council and the transitional government which will be elected by the end of June 2004 will make the necessary arrangements in preparation for these elections, inter alia by conducting a complete and accurate population census, drafting a law containing electoral regulations, preparing an electoral register and adopting laws concerning political parties, the press and meetings.

Prior to commencing the above-mentioned constitutional process, the transitional governing council will draft, no later than the end of February 2004, a law concerning the administration of the Iraqi State in accordance with the following principles:

1. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of religion, freedom of exercise of religious practice and equality of all citizens.

2. Separation of the three branches of government.

3. Introduction of some degree of decentralization in the administration of the governorates, taking into consideration the current situation in Iraqi Kurdistan.

4. Establishment of the principle of civilian control of the Iraqi armed and security forces.

5. Establishment of a unified federal democratic and multilateral system that respects the Islamic identity of the majority of the Iraqi people while ensuring the rights of other religions and religious communities.

The aforementioned law will provide for the establishment of a provisional legislative body in accordance with procedures that will guarantee broad representation of all segments of Iraqi society. This legislative body, to be established no later than the end of May 2004, will elect a provisional Iraqi government no later than the end of June 2004, at which point the Coalition Provisional Authority will be dissolved. The occupation acknowledged by the Security Council in resolution 1483 (2003) will then come to an end and the Governing Council will have no more raison d'être given the existence of the provisional government. In light of the above, it would be appropriate for the Security Council to adopt another resolution that would take into consideration the new circumstances.

(*Signed*) Jalal **Talabani**
President of the Iraqi Governing Council